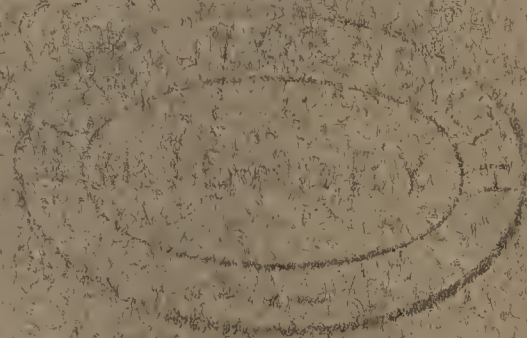


INTELL. LIBRARY

Handwritten signature

E

Strood Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year ended December, 1925.

ROCHESTER :
THE PRINTING COMPANY, 77, HIGH STREET.

Strood Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended December, 1925.

ROCHESTER :

THE PRINTING COMPANY, 77, HIGH STREET.

High Street,
Northfleet,
Near Gravesend.
10th April, 1926.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Strood
Rural District Council.**

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Fourth Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ending December, 1925.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL; M.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)—32,498.

Population—16,900.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is situated wholly in the County of Kent and occupies an area of 32,498 acres.

It extends from the Thames to the Medway, and on its western side contiguous with the Borough of Gravesend, the Urban District of Northfleet and the Rural District of Dartford; on the east it has the Hoo Rural District Council and the City of Rochester; on the south the Rural District of Malling.

It consists of 12 Parishes, together with the portions of the Parishes of Strood and Frindsbury, which are not included in the City of Rochester.

The surface of the District is undulating or hilly. Except in the neighbourhood of the Thames, where there is a considerable area of marsh land, it is covered with gravel sand, Thanet sand, brick earth, alluvial gravel and London clay.

The subsoil is chalk. This formation underlies, practically, the whole of the District.



The general number of Parishes are essentially rural in character, consisting of scattered farm houses, farm cottages, small villages and hamlets, but in the Parishes of Frindsbury Extra, Strood Extra and Denton, the dwellings are urban in character, closely aggregated in streets and rows, but for the most part have gardens at the back. There is in all cases ample light and air space.

Number of inhabited houses (1925)—3,783.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1925)—3,749.

Ratable Value—£117,401 (year 1925-26).

Assessable Value—£102,153 (year 1925-26).

Sum represented by a penny rate—£425 12s. 9d.

Social Conditions.

In the semi-urban Districts the occupation of the inhabitant varies. In Halling it is chiefly cement workers. In Frindsbury, Wainscott and Upnor, the Admiralty works gives employment to many. In Denton, we have all sorts, viz.:—water side workers, sailors, hawkers, dairy workers, cement and paper-mills workers, scavengers, carmen and field workers. In the Rural parts, market gardening and general agricultural work is the chief employment.

Vital Statistics.

			M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	295	153	142	} Birth Rate (R.G.)— 18.1.
	{ Illegitimate	11	5	6	
Deaths	...	161	98	63	Death Rate (R.G.)— 9.7.

Note.—The “Factor” for the Strood Rural District last year was 0.883, hence the corrected or standardized death-rate was 8.5651.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis—Nil. Other causes—1.

Deaths of Infants under one year—12.

Legitimate—11; Illegitimate—1; Total 12.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—1.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)—1.

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)—Nil.

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief are utilized to the utmost extent in the District.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-Pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioner.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000.	18.3	11.2	0.01	—	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
50,000) ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0
London ...	18.1	9.7	Nil	0.06	0.06	Nil	0.06	Nil	0.3	0.65					
Strood Rural District															

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY (past five years).

The number of cases of infectious diseases generally has shewn a steady decline during the past five years. Malaria, dysentery and trench fever have been practically absent, while the number of cases of pneumonia notified remains low.

There has been no cases of encephalitis lethargica.

No "return" cases of scarlet fever have been discovered.

Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined free of charge at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. Full use has been made of these facilities.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners in the District.

Schick Test.

The Schick test has been used in several cases.

Vaccinations.

The percentage of babies vaccinated remains high—in one district it is more than 70% of the babies born—and no babies have been vaccinated by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Preventive) Regulations, 1917, since the year 1922, when the present Medical Officer of Health assumed office.

Non-Notifiable Acute Infections

The district has been comparatively free from influenza, and the number of deaths accredited to this disease negligible. Rabies was absent, while the number of cases of anthrax brought to my notice was very small.

Verminous Persons.

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of persons are available at the Union at Strood.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during
the year 1925.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	19	16	Nil.
Diphtheria	9	9	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Fever	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia	13	Nil.	
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	1	Nil.	Nil.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis { M. 9 }	15	Nil.	{ 4
{ F. 6 }			{ 7
Non-pulmonary { M. 3 }	7	Nil.	{ Nil.
{ F. 4 }			{ 1
Erysipelas	1	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	65	25	12

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases,				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	..
5	...	1	3	2	...	1	...	...
10	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
15	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
25	4	2	...	...	2	3	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	9	6	3	4	4	7	Nil.	1

	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 10 years.	10 and under 15 years.	15 and under 20 years.	20 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and over.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	2	1	...	...	...	9
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	1	2	1	6	6	...	1	...	1	...	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	2	3	1	...	13
Totals ...	1	2	2	4	3	10	7	3	4	3	3	...	43

Causes of Death in Strood Rural District, 1925

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All causes ...	98	63	27 Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition. ...	...	1
1 Enteric Fever...	...	...	28 Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	3	4
2 Small-pox ...	1	...	29 Suicide ..	3	...
3 Measles ...	1	...	30 Other Deaths from Violence... ..	7	1
4 Scarlet Fever...	...	...	31 Other Defined Diseases ...	14	8
5 Whooping Cough ...	1	...	32 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...
6 Diphtheria ...	...	...	
7 Influenza ...	4	1			
8 Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	
9 Meningococcal Meningitis...	...	...	
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5	7			
11 Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	...	Special Causes(included above)		
12 Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	7	Poliomyelitis ...	...	...
13 Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	Polioencephalitis ...	...	...
14 Diabetes ...	...	...	
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	6	6			
16 Heart Disease ...	11	13	Deaths of Infants | Total ...	7	5
17 Arterio-sclerosis ...	8	...	under 1 year | Illegitimate	1	...
18 Bronchitis ...	10	4			
19 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	5	Total Births ...	158	148
20 Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2			
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	...	Legitimate ...	153	142
22 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	Illegitimate ...	5	6
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis...	2	1			
24 Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	1			
25 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2	Population For Birth Rate ...	16,900	
26 Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	„ Death „ ...	16,740	

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Nursing.

Apart from Health Visitors, who are under the direct control of the County Council, many of the Parishes engage the services of a "District Nurse." Her salary is provided by voluntary contributions—in most cases she is a trained midwife.

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Health Visiting.

Health Visitors appointed by the County Council work in co-operation with us, and the arrangements made by the County Medical Officer for the general administration works quite satisfactorily.

Clinics.

One at Cobham, which provides for the Parishes of Cobham, Ifield, Nursted and Cuxton.

One at Shorne, providing for the Parish of Shorne.

One at Meopham, which provides for the Parish of Meopham, and part of Luddesdown.

Hospitals.

Strood Isolation Hospital for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric is sufficient for the wants of the District. The Strood Rural District Council have a working arrangement with Gravesend Urban Council for the reception of small-pox cases, in the event of a minor outbreak. Should there, however, be a serious epidemic, we have made arrangements during the past year to cope with the cases in our own Hospital.

Fortunately, there were no cases of small-pox notified last year. Apropos of this, it is interesting to note that in the upper section of the district nearly 75% of the babies born are vaccinated.

On January 1st, 1925, there were seven patients in the Sanatorium, and seventy-seven patients were admitted during the year, making a total of eighty-four patients treated in the Hospital during the year.

The following table gives a summary of the patients treated in the Hospital during 1925;—

Disease.	Remaining in the Hospital, Dec. 31st, 1924.	Admitted during 1925.	Total number treated during 1925.	Number discharged in 1925.	Number dying in 1925.	Remaining in the Hospital, Dec. 31st, 1925.
Scarlet Fever ...	Nil	21	21	17	Nil	4
Diphtheria ...	7	53	60	44	5	11
Typhoid Fever ...	Nil	3	3	3	Nil	Nil
	7	77	84	64	5	15

The average stay of each patient in the Hospital was 45 days.

The following Table shows the number of patients admitted to the Sanatorium each year during the past seven years:—

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Patients attended by Medical Supt. ...	104	78	62	41	41	44	77
Patients attended by other Doctors ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Total ...	104	78	62	41	41	44	77

The next Table shows the number of cases of each disease treated in the Sanatorium for the past seven years:—

	1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever...	46	1	36	...	30	...	25	1	20	...	16	...	21	...
Diphtheria ...	55	4	37	...	12	1	16	3	18	...	25	1	53	5
Typhoid Fever	3	...	5	1	20	1	..	..	3	...	3	...	3	...
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
	104	5	78	1	62	2	41	4	41	...	44	1	77	5

I have abstracted the following items of Expenditure and Receipts for the year ending 1925, from the Accountant's Abstract of Accounts.

Strood Rural District Council--Isolation Hospital.

Receipts and Expenditure for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

RECEIPTS.

Other Local Authorities ... £1246 2s. 0d.

EXPENDITURE.

Day Book.

	£	s.	d.
Provisions	381	8	7
Clothing	43	19	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Furniture and Property	44	6	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Necessaries	160	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Building and Repairs	50	7	6
Disinfectants	22	17	6
Garden	3	17	10
Drugs	1	19	3
Uniform	—	—	—
	£708	18	8

Matron's Petty Cash.

	£	s.	d.
Printing, Stationery, &c. ...	2	15	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salaries Account	322	19	2
Sundries	1	15	10
Drugs, &c.	10	18	1
Health Insurance (Officers' Contribution) ...	6	13	4
(Council's Con.)	8	1	3
Unemployment Insurance (Officers' Con.) ...	8	1	6
(Council's Con.)	9	3	4
	£370	8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Paid direct through Clerk's Office.

	£	s.	d.
Rates, Telephone charges and Insurance	58	10	8
Salaries of Nurse N. Johnson 74 2 8			
„ Dr. M. F. McDonnell 100 0 0			
	174	2	8
„ Temporary Nurse ...	10	17	0
Conveyance of Patients to Hospital	68	14	0
Drugs and Surgical Appliances ...	6	16	6
	£319	0	10

SUMMARY.

Day Book	708	18	8
Matron's Petty Cash	370	8	4½
Direct—Clerk's Office	319	0	10
Total Expenditure	1398	7	10½
Total Income	1246	2	0
Net Expenditure	£152	5	10½

Ambulance Facilities.

An ambulance is provided for the removal of infectious cases only.

Laboratory Work.

The County Council carry out this work free of charge, and Diphtheria Anti Toxin is supplied free to practitioners living in the district.

TELEGRAPH HILL,
UPPER HIGHAM,
KENT.

March, 1926.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Strood Rural
District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my 18th Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925, in respect of my duties as Sanitary Inspector, Inspection Officer under the Housing Acts, Inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, Surveyor of New Buildings, and Surveyor of Halling Sewers and Outfall Works.

Housing Act Inspections.

During the year 112 houses were inspected and recorded under the provisions of the Housing Acts, in the following Parishes:—

Frindsbury Extra	...	...	...	9
Meopham...	...	...	...	10
Halling	...	...	...	14
Higham	...	...	...	1
Denton	...	...	...	3
Cobham	...	...	...	3
Cuxton	...	...	...	15
Shorne	...	...	...	16
Chalk	...	...	...	3
Cliffe	...	...	...	29
Luddesdown	...	...	...	6
Strood Extra	...	...	...	3
Total ...				112

Informal schedules giving details of required repairs, &c., were served on the Owners of the houses above mentioned, and 61 houses have been repaired and made in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.

No action was found necessary in 8 of the houses inspected.

The following 26 houses were found to be in such a defective condition as to be unfit for human habitation :—

Black Cottage, Chapter Farm, Frindsbury.
 Noah's Ark Cottage, Luddesdown.
 Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Henhurst High Houses, Cobham.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Thatched Cottages, Meopham.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Ivy Cottages, Cliffe.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Pond Hill Cottages, Cliffe.
 Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Ivy Cottages, Shorne.
 Nos. 1 to 6, Gothic Cottages, Shorne.
 Nos. 1 to 6, Garden Row, Shorne.

Closing Orders were made in respect of :—

Black Cottage, Chapter Farm, Frindsbury.
 Noah's Ark Cottage, Luddesdown.
 Nos. 1 to 3, Henhurst High Houses, Cobham.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Thatched Cottages, Meopham.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Ivy Cottages, Cliffe.
 Nos. 1 and 2, Pond Hill Cottages, Cliffe.

Closing Orders were made in respect of No. 1, Garden Row and No. 1, Ivy Cottages, Shorne, during the year 1924, and the question as to what steps should be taken in regard to the remaining 13 houses was under consideration at the end of the year.

Notices respecting 17 houses had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Notices respecting 13 houses outstanding at the end of the previous year have been complied with.

Nuisance Inspections.

In addition to the 112 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 413 other premises were dealt with on account of existing insanitary conditions. Notices were served, re-inspections followed and frequent visits were made while the work was in progress.

As the result of inspections 978 improvements of various kinds were effected on properties in the District during the year. The details are set out below :—

Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	98
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	10
Foul Water Closets cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	76
Privies and Earth Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	16
New Earth Closets provided	...	...	...	...	10
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	15
Privies emptied and disinfected	...	...	...	...	14
Choked Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	87
New Drains provided	...	...	...	...	26
New W.C. Pans and Traps fixed	...	...	...	...	36
New Sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	26
New Sink Waste Pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	42
New Cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	20
Defective Drains, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	44
Cesspools repaired and covered	...	...	...	...	10
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Houses closed	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Houses demolished (voluntary by Owner)					2
Water Supplies laid on over sinks	...	...	...	...	7
Leaky Roofs, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Gutters and Down Pipes repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	38
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	33
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	35
Dirty Walls and Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	65
Defective walls, ceilings, doors, windows, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	51
Dirty Houses cleansed (Tenants neglect)	...	...	...	...	7
Out-houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	4
Portable dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	36
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	47
Nuisance from Animals abated	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	33
Slaughter-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter-houses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	12
Cowsheds paved, drained, lighted and ventilated	..	...	...	...	1
Bakehouse walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
Workshops repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Total					978

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Frequent visits were made during the year to the whole of the Cowsheds and Dairies in the District, and with few exceptions, the premises were found to be fairly satisfactory. Twelve notices were served for cleansing, limewashing and other improvements, all of which have been complied with.

Factory and Workshops Act.

I have visited and inspected from time to time, the whole of the Workshops and Bake-houses in the District. Six notices were served all of which have been complied with.

There are 17 Factories, 27 Workshops, 1 Workplace and 10 Bake-houses on the Register.

There are no underground Bake-houses in the District.

Infectious Disease.

Sixty-five cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, 25 of which were removed and treated at the Council's Isolation Hospital.

The whole of the cases were visited and a general inspection made of the premises. Immediate steps were taken to remedy any sanitary or other defects which were found to exist.

Six notices were sent to Schools re infectious disease.

The following table shows the nature of each notification and the Parish in which they occurred:—

Parish.	Total cases notified.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis.		Erysipelas.	Cases removed to Hospital.
						Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary		
Chalk	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cliffe	20	12	0	0	0	8	0	0	10
Cuxton	10	1	2	5	0	0	2	0	2
Denton	4	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
Frindsbury Extra ...	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Halling	18	3	1	8	1	2	3	0	4
Meopham	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2
Shorne... ..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strood Extra	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Totals ..	65	19	9	13	1	15	7	1	...
Total cases removed to Hospital ..	..	15	9	0	0	0	0	0	25

No cases of infectious disease were notified in the Parishes of Cobham, Higham, Ifield, Luddesdown and Nursted.

New Buildings.

During the year Plans were submitted and approved for the under-mentioned Buildings:—

Parish.	Dwelling Houses.	Additions to Dwelling Houses.	Miscellaneous Buildings.	Total
Frindsbury Extra ...	23	0	0	23
Meopham	13	2	3	18
Cobham	3	1	1	5
Cliffe	4	1	0	5
Shorne	8	0	2	10
Strood Extra	5	0	0	5
Denton	5	0	2	7
Halling	3	0	1	4
Cuxton	0	1	0	1
Higham	3	0	0	3
Luddesdown	0	1	0	1
Chalk	1	0	0	1
Totals	68	6	9	83

At the end of the year 23 dwelling-houses had been completed, 33 were in course of erection, 7 had not been commenced and 5 had been cancelled.

Twenty-one dwelling-houses were in course of erection at the end of the previous year and these have been completed.

Two dwelling-houses which were approved but not commenced during the year 1924 have been erected and completed during the year, and one other is still in course of erection.

Certificates were issued under The Housing Acts, 1923 and 1924, whereby the District Council undertook to give assistance by way of a lump sum grant of £75 in the case of 31 houses, upon the completion of the houses in accordance with the Acts, and to the satisfaction of the Council.

At the end of the year 15 houses had been completed, 15 were in course of erection and 1 had not been commenced.

Halling Sewers and Outfall Works.

The Outfall Works and Sewers are working satisfactorily.

There are 451 houses connected to the Sewers, two new connections being made during the year.

Petroleum Acts.

Forty-four Licences were issued during the year for the storage of Petroleum (30) and Carbide of Calcium (14) in the District, and the licences are renewed annually.

The whole of the premises have been inspected to see that the place of storage is kept in accordance with the Acts.

Council Houses. Wainscot, Frindsbury Extra.

The fifty houses at Frindsbury Extra, erected by the District Council in 1916 are all occupied, and there are no arrears of rent.

Water Supply.

The District is supplied with water by the following Water Companies :—

The Higham & Hundred of Hoo Water Co.
The Gravesend & Milton Water Co.
The Strood Waterworks Co.
The Mid-Kent Water Co.

Samples from each of these supplies are submitted half-yearly to the County Analyst for Analysis, and the reports of the samples submitted during the year proved the waters to be of excellent organic quality.

A sample of well water submitted for analysis from the supply at The Station Master's House, Cuxton, was reported to be of good organic quality and suitable for use as a drinking water.

Slaughter Houses and Food Inspection.

The principal work in this connection was the visitation of of slaughter-houses and butcher shops, every endeavour being made to get the maximum advantage for the Public from the requirements of the Meat Regulations.

There are six licenced and two registered slaughter-houses in the District.

The following meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

One carcase of Beef (Tubercular)
One carcase of Pork (Tubercular)
Two carcasses of Mutton (Emaciation and Dropsy)
32 lbs. of Beef (unsound)
One Ox head and Tongue (Tubercular)

New Bye-Laws came into operation during the year, and one of the most important of these laws is the compulsory use of the Humane Killer.

Offensive Trades.

Bye-Laws are in force for the regulation of Offensive Trades in the Parishes of Frindsbury Extra, Strood Extra and Denton.

There are no Offensive Trades in the District.

Disinfection.

Forty-one premises were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Primary inspection of premises	...	...	...	413
House to House inspections	...	..	...	112
Re-inspections after service of Notices and visits to works in progress	...	...	...	748
Visits to Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	84
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	35
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	139
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	118
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	90
Inspections of New Building	...	..	...	520
Halling Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	123
Samples of Water submitted for Analysis	...	...	...	9
Council Meetings attended	...	...	...	12
Inspections under the Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	44
Total				2,474

I beg to remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARCHIBALD E. LOACH,

Sanitary Inspector, etc.

Water Supply.

Practically the whole of the District is now supplied by water from mains of the Higham and Hundred of Hoo, the Gravesend and Milton, the Mid-Kent and Strood Water Companies.

The analysis of the above waters are satisfactory.

Public Analyst's Report on Water Samples.—(Copy).

Description of Sample.	Higham and Hundred of Hoo.	Mid-Kent.	Strood.	Gravesend and Milton.
Total Solid Residue ...	25·5	25·5	57·0	36·5
Chlorine ...	2·0	2·3	8·5	1·7
Free Ammonia ..	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0
Nitrogen ...	0·1	0·1	0·5	0·2
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hr. at 80° F. ...	·006	·003	·008	·006
Oxygen absorbed 4 hrs. at 80° F. ...	·012	·006	·02	·012
Nitrites ...	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.

Remarks to each of above.—This Water is of excellent organic quality and therefore suitable for use as drinking water.

Signed, F. W. F. ARNAUD, F.C.I.

Public Analyst for the County of Kent.

Milk Supply.

For the most part the milk consumed is produced in the District, and there is no reason to doubt its purity and wholesomeness. There are 45 Cowsheds and Dairies in the District, all of which have been regularly inspected, and where necessary, instructions given as to the necessity of cleanliness, personal and otherwise, and also as to cleansing of utensils, cattle sheds, &c.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 8 Slaughter Houses in the District, which have been regularly inspected. Your Sanitary Officer visits them as much as possible at times of killing. The condition of these places is, on the whole, satisfactory.

Private Slaughter Houses in use in the District.

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered ..	2	2	2
Licensed ...	6	6	6
Total ...	8	8	8

Sewage and Drainage.

During the year, our efforts were directed towards the improvement of the existing drains, viz. :—relaying, ventilating and paving yards. In this connection, many permanent improvements were carried out.

Refuse, Disposing, Scavenging.

In Denton Parish, the property owners contracted for its removal, but the prevailing custom is to store it in a heap, and afterwards use it on the land.

Disposal of House Refuse—Tip at Frindsbury Extra.

I am pleased to be able to report that the recommendations contained in last year's report have been fully carried out by the Frindsbury Brick Co. There have been no complaints received from this area during the past year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the District.

Bakehouses.

There are 11 in the District. They have all been systematically inspected and usually found fairly well kept.

Institutions in the District.

1. The Strood Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital.
2. The Borough of Gravesend Isolation Hospital.
3. The Port of London's Isolation Hospital.
4. Several Batteries and Barracks under the control of the War Office,

Infectious Diseases.

Total cases reported during year, 65—

Scarlet Fever, 19; Diphtheria, 9; Tuberculosis, 22; Erysipelas, 1; Puerperal Fever, Nil; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1.

There is nothing in the above to need any special comment. For further details, see table in Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, one whole-time (M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.)

The other duties of the M.O.H., are as follows:—(1) Medical Superintendant Strood Isolation Hospital. (2) District Medical Officer for Northfleet District. (3) Public Vaccinator for Northfleet District.

Sanitary Inspectors. One who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector also carries out the duties of:—

Surveyor of New Buildings,
Inspection Officer under the Housing Acts,
Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies,
Local Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Acts,
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts,
Surveyor of Halling Sewers and Outfall Works,
Collector of the Council's Housing Rents.

HOUSING.

(I) General housing conditions in the area.

(a) 50 houses were built in 1916 by the Council in the Wainscott area.

(b) 68 houses were built under the Housing Acts, 1923-24, by private enterprise.

For the time being these appear to meet the needs of the District.

(II.) Overcrowding.

Following complaints received last year from one parish (Meopham), 126 Working-class Houses were visited, for the purpose of obtaining some idea as to the cases of over-crowding, which had been stated to exist,

Other matters appertaining to Housing are dealt with elsewhere in this report.

The houses visited were situate between Meopham Green, Camer Park, Norwood Lane, Hook Green and Meopham Station, and he found the following conditions maintained, viz. :—

Number of houses occupied by one family	...	...	105
Number of houses occupied by two families	...	...	5
Number of houses occupied by three families	...	...	1
Number of houses occupied by one family and one single man lodger	...	...	11
Number of houses occupied by one family and three single men lodgers	...	...	2
Number of empty houses...	...	...	2
			<hr/> 126 <hr/>

Of the 105 houses occupied by one family :—

7	were occupied by one person	7	were occupied by six persons
25	„ „ two persons	6	„ „ seven persons
23	„ „ three persons	4	„ „ eight persons
18	„ „ four persons	2	„ „ nine persons
13	„ „ five persons		

Of the five houses occupied by two families :—

1	was occupied by three persons	1	was occupied by seven persons
3	were „ four persons		

Number of houses occupied by three families :—

One only occupied by nine persons

Of the 11 houses occupied by one family and one single man lodger :—

4	were occupied by three persons	3	were occupied by five persons
3	„ „ four persons	1	was „ seven persons

Of the two houses occupied by one family and three single men lodgers :—

1	was occupied by four persons	1	was occupied by six persons
---	------------------------------	---	-----------------------------

No houses were found to be so overcrowded as to be dangerous or injurious to the health of the inmates, within the meaning of the Public Health Act.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (B))	46
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924 :—	
(i)	By the Local Authority ...	0
(ii)	By other bodies or persons ...	15

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	232
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	112
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	26
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the proceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	78

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	74*
---	-----

3. Action Under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
-----	--	---

(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	26
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	11
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

* 13 carried over from previous year.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries, Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	25	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	92	6	Nil.
	2	Nil.	Nil.
Total	119	6	Nil.

2 —Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	4	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	4	4	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	9	9	...	...

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

M. F. McDONNELL,

10th April, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

